

Economics 4999 Colorado Economy

Fall 2006

Professor Barry W. Poulson

Office: Econ 10

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-2:00pm and by appointment

A. Syllabus

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce students to major issues confronting the Colorado economy. In each section of the course major issues

Students can miss one class in each section of the course without penalty, additional absences will result in lower grades on the topic.

Grading

Students will receive three grades representing each section of the course. Each of those grades will be based upon the essay and class attendance and participation. Each of the three grades will be equally weighted in the final grade.

Disclaimer:

This class will be conducted in conformity to all of the rules and procedures which are provided in publications by the University of Colorado

B. Topical Outline and Assignments

Introduction (Aug. 29-31)

Suggested Readings

Mike Bird, The Economic Development of Colorado in Historical Perspective
<http://i2i.org/article.aspx?ID=640>

Henry Sobanet, Colorado's Economy and Budget,
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/specialreports/coeconpresentation_june05.pdf

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)
<http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm>

Section I Tax and Fiscal Policy Issues

Fiscal Constitution Reform

Legislation

Referendum #88 Rebate of Money Above referendum C Estimates
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/c6083eca0cdbe3fd87257186007644c5?OpenDocument>

Referendum C Proposal, Ballot Analysis, and Fiscal Note
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/deb289c855a0758987256ffc006efc97?OpenDocument>

Important Links

State Policy Network Tax Reform

file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalspolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy

<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies

<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Americans for Prosperity

<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state rebate money above the referendum C estimates?

Should the TABOR Amendment be modified or repealed?

“ “ Gallagher Amendment “ “ “ “

“ “ Amendment 23 “ “ “ “

“ “ Bird/Arveschaug Amendment “ “

Should the state create a rainy day fund?

Tax and Budgetary Reform Reform

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Tax and Finance

<file:///F:/University/fall06-4999/Tax%20and%20Finance.htm>

Suggested Readings

Barry W. Poulson, Supply Side Benefits of Colorado's Flat Tax: Tinkering Could Hurt Revenues and Fairness

<http://www.i2i.org>

Barry W. Poulson, Why Colorado Needs a Permanent Income Tax Cut

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson Let the Death Tax Die a Natural Death

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, The One Size Fits All Approach to Tax Policy in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson Local Tax Competition is Great

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Tom Dunn, How Colorado Compares in State and Local Taxes,

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05-01IssueBrief_StateLocalTaxes.pdf

OSBP, Colorado Permanent Tax Relief Since 1999,

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/budget.html

Geoffrey Segal, Priority Colorado

<http://i2i.org>

Linda Gorman, Amendment 35, Taxing Tobacco Users to Fund Special Interests

<http://i2i.org>

Important Links

State Policy Network Tax Reform

file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy

<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Americans for Prosperity

<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the estate tax be modified or repealed?

- “ “ business personal property tax be modified or repealed?
- “ “ homestead exemption “ “ “ “
- “ “ earned income tax credit “ “ “ “
- “ “ child care credit be modified or expanded?
- “ “ low income energy assistance program be modified or expanded?
- “ “ state adopt a uniform sales tax?
- “ “ state replace the income tax with a sales tax?
- “ “ state provide property tax relief?
- “ “ state property tax/rent

Carrie Lips, State and Local Government Retirement Programs: Lessons in Alternatives to Social Security

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=1626

Jennifer Harris, 2001 Survey of State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems

II Economic Growth, Infrastructure, and the Environment

Economic Growth and Development

Legislation

Colorado Senate, Growth Legislation 2005

http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25growth%25

Legislative Staff, Government – Local

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Growth and Land Management Legislation 2003

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/research/03GROWTHANDLANDMANAGEMENT.htm

Suggested Readings

Governor's Smart Growth Initiative

<http://www.colorado.gov./governor/policy/growth.html>

Jessica Peck Corey, At the Crossroads of Condemnation

http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_1_2006_b.pdf

Randal Otoole, The Planning Penalty

<http://www.i2i.org/articles/3-2006.pdf>

Barry W. Poulson, Deregulating Telecommunications in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Jessica Peck Corry, Tower Tussle: The Colorado Battle Over Extraterritorial Condemnation

<http://i2i.org>

Barry W. Poulson, The Fatal Flaw in Colorado's Business Climate

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Stephen Hackman, Crating a Housing Crises

<http://i2i.org>

Important Links

Office of Economic Development and International Trade
<http://www.state.co.us/oed/index.cfm>

Property Rights Project
<http://www.propertyrightsproject.org/>

Center for the American Dream
http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=10

Office of Smart Growth,
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/index.htm>

Independence Institute, Growth Policy Studies (various papers)
<http://i2i.org/ResearchAreas/Growth/index.htm>

Bell Policy Center (various papers)
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should Colorado deregulate the telecommunications industry?
Should local governments offer cable television service, telecommunications service, or high speed internet access?
Should cities impose growth management planning?
Should local governments use the power of eminent domain to promote economic development?
Should local governments use zoning to control economic development?
Should local governments impose limits on employment growth?
Should local governments impose taxes and fees to control development?
Should enterprise zone legislation be modified or repealed

Transportation

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government – Transportation and Energy
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

_____, Transportation Legislation, 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05TransportationandEnergy.htm

Colorado Senate, Transportation Legislation 2005
http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25trans%25

Suggested Readings

Randal Otoole Great Rail Disasters
<http://www.i2i.org/articles/1-2004.pdf>

Randall OToole Rail Disasters 2005
<http://i2i.org>

Colorado Department of Transportation, North Front Range Transportation
Alternative Feasibility Report.
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/NFRTAFS/toppage1.htm>

Randal OToole The Mobility Plan for Denver
<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole The Full Truth about Fastracks
<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole, Why Rail When Bus Works Better
<http://i2i.org>

Important Links

Governor's Transportation & Alternative Fuels Programs
<http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/transportation/index.htm>

Independence Institute, Colorado Transportation Center (various papers)
<http://i2i.org/cad.aspx>

Colorado Department of Transportation
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state build more toll roads?
Should the state convert existi

Should the state use peak load pricing on toll roads?
Should the state rely more heavily on alternative transportation?
Should the state raise the sales tax on gasoline?
Should the state privatize RTD?
Should the state rely on private construction of toll roads?
Should private toll roads be constructed using eminent domain?

Water

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Government –Water

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers on water issues)

<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Natural Resources Law Center

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/.htm>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state plan and implement policies for the interbasin transfer of water?
Should the state facilitate smaller regional agreements for water transfers and storage?

Should Colorado reclaim water now flowing to out of state users?

Should the state create a claim on water resources for environmental and recreational uses?

Resources and the Environment

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Government –Renewable Energy

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation and Energy

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Natural Resources

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Natural Resource Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05NaturalResources.htm

Amendment 37 Renewable Energy Requirement

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2004/ballot/2004BluebookforInternet.PDF

Suggested Readings

Barry W. Poulson, Decarbonizing Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Alex Schroeder, The Application and Administration of Inducement Prizes in
Tecnology

http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_11_2004.pdf

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Environmental Division
(various papers)

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/environ.asp>

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Independence Institute, Technology, Energy and Utilities

<http://i2i.org/teu.aspx>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state mandate the use of alternative fuels in autos?

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ to generate electricity?

Should oil and gas operators be required to compensate for impacts caused by exploration?

Should the state subsidize research in alternative fuel technology?

Should the state privatize state park and recreation areas?

Should the state subsidize energy conservation measures?

Should the state subsidize recycling?

III Health, Education, Welfare, Corrections, and Immigration

Education

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Government –Education

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff School Finance in Colorado

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, School Finance in Colorado, Dec. 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/cover.htm

Amendment 39, School District Spending Requirements

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/570ef8fde282b79d87257168005fe3d7?OpenDocument>

Colorado Senate, Education Legislation 2005

http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25school%25

Legislative Staff Education Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Education.htm

Suggested Readings

_____, How Colorado Compares in K-12 Funding
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/k-12Funding0100.pdf

Legislative Staff K-12 Student Assessments
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2000/research/00K-12studentassessment.htm

Benjamin De Grow, Counting the Cash for Kids
<http://www.i2i.org>

End Compulsory Schooling
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=878

Barry W. Poulson, The Common School Movement in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, A Good Deal for Higher Ed Students, and for Taxpayers
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Solving Colorado's Education Finance Problem
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Post Secondary Education in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Higher Education in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Important Links

State Policy Network Education
<http://www.spn.org/publications>

http://thebell.org/ed_op.html

Coloradokids, A Call for High School Reform

<http://www.coloradokids.org/PDF%20files/A%20Call%20for%20High%20School%20Reform.pdf>

Independence Institute, Education Policy Center (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/education.aspx>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should school districts be required to allocate 65% of operational expenditures to the classroom?

Should school choice be expanded through voucher?

“ “ “ “ “ “ charter schools?

Should tax credits be expanded for donations and expenditures for private schools

Should the state implement more rigorous testing in the schools?

Should minimum requirements be imposed for high school graduation?

Should the voucher program in higher education be increased and expanded to all post secondary schools?

Should services in education be privatized or contracted out?

Should community colleges be privatized?

Health Care

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Health Care

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Public Health Care Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05PublicHealth.htm

Legislative Staff, Health Care Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCare.htm

Colorado Senate Health Care Legislation 2005

http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25health%25

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthInsurance.htm

Suggested Readings

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2006

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCareResourceBook.pdf

Barry W. Poulson, Privatizing Medicaid in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Important Links

State Policy Network Medicaid

<http://www.spn.org/publications>

Bell Policy Center, Colorado Issues Health (various papers)

<http://www.thebell.org/health.html>

Health Care for All Colorado

<http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/>

Independence Institute, Center for Health Care Policy (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/healthcarecenter.aspx>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state privatize Medicaid

“ “ “ use health savings a

Welfare

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Welfare Legislation 2002

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2002/research/02Welfare.htm

Suggested Readings

Welfare Reform: Next Steps for Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=874

The Urban Institute, Recent Changes in Colorado Welfare and Work, Child Care, and Child Welfare Systems

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Corrections

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Corrections Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Corrections.htm

Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05CriminalJustice.htm

Suggested Readings

Getting Smart on Crime: Time to Reform Colorado's Drug Offense Sentencing Policies

<http://www.i2i.org>

Nullifying the Probationary Period

<http://www.i2i.org>

Refining Colorado's Criminal Code

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=610

Extreme Drug Law Tramples Bill of Rights

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=663

Important Links

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition,
<http://www.ccjrc.org/index.html>

Independence Institute, (Various papers on reforming the criminal justice and penal system)
<http://www.i2i.org/>

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state expand the privatization of prisons?
Should sentencing laws be modified?
Should the parole system be modified?
Should the state offer alternative education and training programs to prisoners and parolees?
Should the state privatize “ “ “ “ “ “ and parolees ?
Should drug sentencing laws be changed?
Should the state eliminate the death penalty?
Should sentencing laws be linked to age and sex?

Immigration

Legislation

Legislative Staff, Immigration in Colorado: State Impact and Recent Legislation
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Referendum #55 Restrictions on Government Services to Illegal Immigrants
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/597b2322acb205618725718600795817?OpenDocument>

Suggested Readings

State and Local Authority to Enforce Immigration Law
<http://www.cis.org/>

Immigration's Costs and Benefits
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB115100948305787940.html>

Illegal Immigration

<http://www.cis.org/topics/illegalimmigraion.html>

Illegal Aliens Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education

<http://www.i2i.org>

Important Links

Center for Immigration Studies

<http://www.cis.org/>

U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform

<http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/reports.html>

Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org>